

Masses Show Will to Fight De Gaulle

But the Generals Are Still Poised to Impose Bloody Dictatorial Rule

By George Lavan

MAY 28 — The noose of dictatorship has been lowered onto the shoulders of political democracy in France. Never since Louis Napoleon destroyed the Second Republic in 1851 and Hitler's flunkey, Marshal Petain, destroyed the Third Republic has the French working class stood in such deadly danger. Confronted with would-be dictator de Gaulle, capitalist politicians of France are surrendering with a speed that would put to shame the politicians of a Central American Republic faced with an army coup.

The only thing which prevented a complete sell-out today by parliament to the threats of de Gaulle and his sinister following of militarists, the racist colons of Algeria and assorted fascist and semi-fascist elements was the last-minute mobilization of the French working class. The transfer of the scene of battle from the floor and corridors of the National Assembly where the result was a foregone conclusion to the country itself was announced by the most tremendous demonstration seen in France since the end of World War II. Some 200,000 workers, marching twenty abreast through the streets of Paris to the site of Bastille destroyed by their revolutionary ancestors, chanted "De Gaulle Shall Not Pass."

Thus the working class served notice of its will to fight to the end against the imposition of a dictatorship designed to smash its organizations — that is a fascist dictatorship.

The mighty demonstration achieved in action what the conflict between the top bureaucracies of the Social Democratic and Communist Parties had hitherto prevented — a united front. For all reports agree that the overwhelming bulk of the demonstrators were the rank-and-file members of these two largest organizations of the French workers.

This gives hope that the sound instinct of the masses for united action against the terrible danger confronting them will prevail over their leaders' previous inability or refusal to agree on joint actions.

Workers' Ranks Unite

This was also foreshadowed by incidents in yesterday's general strike called by the largest union federation, the Communist-led CGT. Though only a partial success nationally, and disappointing in Paris, the strike did show the workers' power in many areas. Particularly in the north where the miners came out 75% strong. Most significant were those places, where disregarding their national leaders' orders, workers belonging to the Socialist-led Force Ouvrière, joined the CGT strikers. For example in Toulouse, Communist and Socialist workers marched arm-in-arm on an arsenal. However, it was today's tremendous demonstration in Paris which serves notice that despite party and union divisions, the French workers want to stop de Gaulle by fighting together against him.

This is a momentous fact. It means that if the betrayal in parliament goes through and de Gaulle becomes premier, his battle is far from won. He will have terrified parliament into acquiescence, but not the workers. Unless completely derailed by their leaders, the workers will still be in a position and mood to fight.

Though by becoming premier de Gaulle would have won the first battle, inflicting a grave defeat on the French working

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Socialist Fund at 99% With 3 Days to Go

By Murry Weiss
National Fund Drive Director

BULLETIN — Los Angeles has gone over the top with \$5,000 or 10% of its \$4,600 quota.

MAY 28 — With three days left to go, the \$20,000 Socialist Expansion Fund drive has reached 99% of completion and 100% victory is assured by the May 31 deadline.

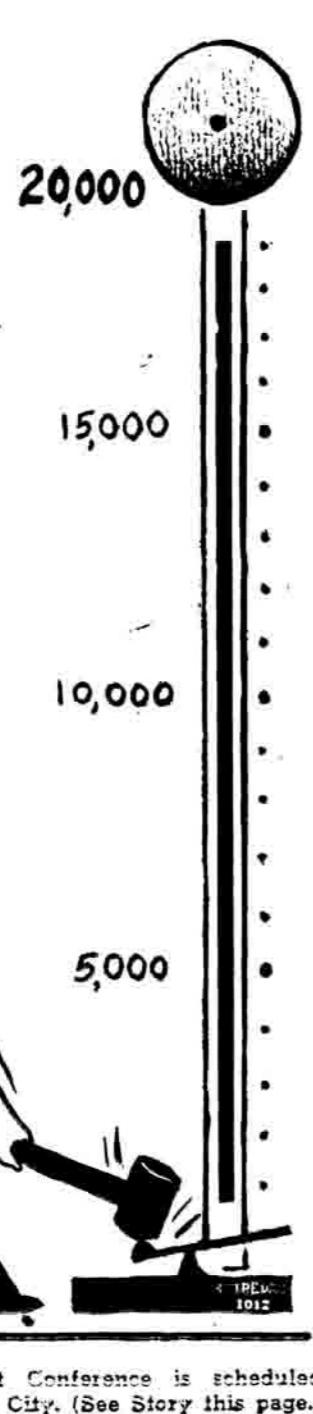
At this date thirteen SWP groups have come in 100% and five of these — Denver, Pittsburgh, Detroit, South and Oakland — have gone over the top. (See Score-board page 4.)

The spring Socialist Expansion Fund Drive began March 1 as the first of two fund campaigns in 1958 aimed at stepping-up the activity and broadening the influence of the socialist movement in the United States.

The main feature of socialist expansion efforts for 1958 was the launching of a movement for placing socialist candidates on the ballot in the fall congressional and state elections and above all trying to achieve United Socialist Tickets wherever possible.

It is felt that if socialists could get together and hammer out agreement on a minimum platform of socialist struggle for peace and against the cold war, for a planned economy of abundance instead of capitalist depression, for an end to Jim Crow and to the witch hunt, for a new independent party of labor in alliance with the working farmer and the Negro people, it would point the way to the 1960 elections and the development of a broader, more influential and resurgent socialist movement in America.

Already United Socialist Ticket movements have been launched in California and Illinois; and a United Independent-Socialist Ticket Conference is scheduled for June 13, 14 and 15 in New York City. (See Story this page.)



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Drive Opens for United Socialist Ticket in N.Y.

High Court OK's Scabs Suing Union

The United States Supreme Court ruled, May 27, that a scab who has been kept out of a plant by strikers can sue the union for damages in the state courts. Prior to this ruling the practice was that only the National Labor Relations Board ruled on claims for back pay and other damages made by such creatures.

Technically, this union crippling ruling means that under the Taft-Hartley Act, there is no uniform federal policy in such cases and the various state courts have control.

The test case involved Paul S. Russell who tried to drive his car through a United Auto Workers picket line at a copper company in Decatur, Alabama during a strike in 1951. The pickets stopped him and he sued in the Alabama courts claiming that the union had cost him five weeks pay by keeping him off the job during the strike. He also asked for punitive damages. The Alabama jury awarded him \$10,000.

VOTE IS 6-2

The UAW took the case to the Supreme Court. The vote against the union was six to two with Justice Hugo Black taking no part in the case. Justices Burton, Frankfurter, Clark, Harlan, Brennan and Whittaker constituted the majority and Warren and Douglas the minority.

The dissenting opinion pointed out that "There is a very real prospect of staggering punitive damages accumulated through successive actions by parties injured by members who have succumbed to the emotion that frequently accompanies concerted activities during labor unrest . . ." "By reason," continued the dissent, "of various liability for its members . . . conduct on the picket lines the union is to be subjected to a series of judgments that may and probably will reduce it to bankruptcy . . ."

Over twenty other suits have been brought against the UAW as a result of the Decatur, Alabama strike alone. The damages claimed total \$1,500,000.

Britain Admits Inciting Soviet Border Incident

MAY 22 — The British government officially admitted yesterday that its air and naval forces have been deliberately engaging in provocative violations of Soviet frontiers.

The official admission came from a government prosecutor in the opening of the trial of two Oxford students charged with violation of the Official Secrets Act. Former members of the British navy, the two students wrote an article for the Oxford undergraduate magazine describing how British planes and boats deliberately invaded Soviet territory. These dangerously aggressive acts were committed, they explained, to gather military intelligence on the basis of Soviet responses to the provocations. The issue of the magazine in which the article appeared was devoted to the problem of banning the H-bomb.

GROWTH, SECRETS

Publication of the article brought strong protest in England against such practices and

(Continued on Page 2)

The Next Task



A Big Step Forward

An Editorial

The announcement of a conference to put a united independent-socialist ticket on the New York ballot this fall should be greeted with enthusiasm by all those who are working for a meaningful revival of the socialist movement in this country.

The issuance of the conference call marks a renewal in a key state of the socialist tradition of challenging the two Big Business parties at the polls. By implementing the call, New York socialists not only have the opportunity to spread the socialist message at a time when popular interest in political issues is at its height, but also the means to remove socialism from the realm of abstract propaganda.

Adoption at the conference of a clear-cut, militant program on the principal issues of the day, and launching of a

united socialist ticket will help reactivate the many convinced but presently unaffiliated socialists throughout the state. Equally important, such a ticket can provide an inspiring alternative for the growing thousands who, though not convinced socialists, are thoroughly fed up with both the Republicans and Democrats.

Despite its enormous potential political strength, labor has suffered continuing setbacks as a result of reliance by the union officialdom on capitalist political "friends." The threat of impending anti-labor legislation and the failure to win even modification of the Taft-Hartley law are cases in point. And the current Congressional refusal to act on anti-recession measures drives home the point.

Show New Road

Those in the radical movement who have supported this course have argued that to remain on the path of independent political action would result in isolation. But "coalition" polities can only contribute discreditation to the socialist movement and to the demoralization of many of its supporters. The initiators of a united socialist campaign are offering the road out of this blind alley.

The fact that they are recommending to the coming conference that it nominate a full slate of candidates for the major state offices demonstrates that they mean business about independent politics and are not interested in any token campaign limited to one or another single office. Such a campaign would in reality mean tagging along in tacit support of one or more in the endless parade of capitalist "lesser evils."

The proposal for a united socialist ticket could not have come at a better time. The fact that America is not immune to the laws of capitalist crisis is being revealed today in dramatic fashion. The swiftly growing crisis of Wall Street's foreign and domestic policies will provide an expanded new audience ready to consider socialist alternatives to the reactionary policies pursued by the Republicans and Democrats.

For our part, we of the Militant pledge our maximum resources to rallying support for the kind of a fighting, united socialist campaign that New York has needed for a long time.

Call Issued for Parley To Draft Platform and Nominate Candidates

NEW YORK, May 26 — Plans for an effective statewide socialist election campaign in New York were made public today with the announcement of a call for a conference to nominate a united independent-socialist slate of candidates for U.S. Senator, Governor, Lieutenant-Governor and Comptroller.

Initiators of the movement are calling for a campaign of socialist opposition to the bipartisan policies of cold war, witch hunt and suppression of civil rights. They brand the Republican and Democratic parties as "seeking to crush labor, the family farmer and the small business man; and with impoverishing and corrupting the nation's educational system."

SET PARLEY JUNE 13-15

Declaring that "a united Independent-Socialist ticket in New York State can provide the long needed impetus for a revival and reinvigoration of independent political action," the sponsoring call was issued by a group of individuals including independents and leaders and members of various organized socialist groupings. The group scheduled the conference at the Great Northern Hotel in New York on June 13, 14 and 15, "for the purpose of adopting a platform and designating candidates for such offices in the 1958 elections as the conference shall set forth."

Initiating sponsors of the projected socialist ticket include: Dr. Corliss Lamont, philosopher and lecturer at New York University, who was the American Labor Party's 1952 candidate for U.S. Senator; Dr. W. E. DuBois, world-famed historian; Mrs. Muriel McAvoy, widow of the late ALP leader, Clifford T. McAvoy; Dr. Howard Selsam, author-philosopher and director until its closing last year of the Jefferson School; Joyce Cowley, 1957 New York mayoralty candidate of the Socialist Workers Party; Russ Nixon, national legislative representative of the United Electrical Workers Union (independent); Richard De Haan,

chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance; George Stryker, Long Island socialist; Henry H. Abrams, Dr. Annette T. Rubenstein and John T. McManus of the National Guardian, all three prominently identified with the American Labor Party until its dissolution in 1956.

HITS CAPITALIST ANARCHY

The conference call presents a detailed indictment of the capitalist system. Pointing to the industrial progress achieved under a planned economy, the call declares: "In a world in which a billion people are engaged in building a socialist order as an alternative to capitalist anarchy, American capitalism is dead." (Continued on Page 3)

Text of Call to United Socialist Conference

(The following is the text of a letter sent out to some 800 New Yorkers requesting their endorsement for a call to a conference to launch a united independent-socialist ticket in the 1958 election. It is followed by the text of the conference call itself.)

Dear Friend:

During the first few months of this year, a group of individuals including independents and leaders and members of various organized socialist groups, have been meeting to discuss the possibilities of effective united independent-socialist electoral participation in the 1958 elections in New York State.

The result has been the enclosed draft of a Call to a Conference this spring to undertake to put on the ballot in November independent Socialist candidates for the four top State offices and U.S. Senator.

We are sending you the proposed Call in the hope that you will endorse its main purpose and join with the undersigned in sponsoring the Conference.

A united Independent-Socialist ticket in New York State can provide the long-needed impetus for a revival and reinvigoration of independent political action not only in our state but elsewhere throughout the country. We believe that

thousands of people in our state would rally to the support of such a campaign. We believe that this effort is necessary this year to introduce vital issues and prospects which will otherwise be absent from the political argument in the forthcoming elections. Further, if a minimum of 50,000 votes can be won at the ballot-box, an independent political medium of great new significance can be given ballot status in our state for future elections.

It is proposed that a platform be built on the principle of minimum agreement among the various groups and tendencies participating in the conference and it is to be hoped that the candidates designated by such a conference would represent clearly the main independent-socialist currents in our state which are devoted to peace and consideration of socialist solutions for the ills produced by our country's social and economic system.

If you agree with the purpose of the proposed Conference we urge, in addition to your own concurrence in sponsorship, that (Continued on Page 3)

Why a Ceylonese Gov't Workers' Strike Was Lost



Shown above is a rally of the Lanka Sama Samaja (Ceylon Equality) Party, the largest working-class party in Ceylon. The LSSP, Ceylon's Trotskyist organization, is also the official opposition in parliament where it has 14 seats. The Communist Party has three.

COLOMBO, Ceylon, May 12 — Communist Party supporters who gained the leadership of the union of the white collar section of government workers have been completely discredited and face the loss of union control as a result of their sellout of the strike of public workers two weeks ago.

The strike of the CP-controlled Public Service Workers Trade Union Federation was called to gloss over the strike-breaking activity which they carried on, and encouraged the government to carry on, during the recent successful strikes conducted by the Ceylon Federation of Labor and by the Government Workers Trade Union Federation which is led by the Lanka Sama Samaja Party (Trotskyists).

The Stalinists denounced the LSSP-led strikes as reactionary attempts to overthrow the Peoples United Front (Bandaranaike) government. Although this government is dominated by a wing of the capitalist class, the CP has declared it "progressive" and has supported it.

BADLY DISCREDITED

With the wide spread public support extended the LSSP-led strikes, which were fought for higher wages to combat runaway inflation, and with the successful outcome of the strikes, the Stalinists were badly discredited in the unions because of their anti-strike activity. So they tried to boost their stock by calling a strike themselves. Government clerks in a union affiliated with the Public Service Workers joined the strike.

The LSSP-led unions did not join the strike action because they felt some of the demands put forward were sectarian and they felt further discussion of other demands was necessary before they could strike.

But when the government reacted by unleashing the police, army and organized hooligans against the strikers, the LSSP led unions declared to the Prime Minister that unless the government stopped these strike-breaking attacks they would resort to direct action to safe-

...British Provocations

(Continued from Page 1) also brought indictment of the two students by the government on the charge of disclosing "certain highly secret informations."

Since the Soviet Union is very much aware of these acts of provocation, it may be assumed that the government wants to penalize the students for disclosing the matter to the British people.

The following are excerpts from the student exposé:

"All along the frontier between East and West, from Iraq to the Baltic, perhaps farther, are monitoring stations manned by national servicemen trained in Morse code or Russian, avidly recording each squeak from Russian transmitters — ships, tanks, airplanes, troops and control stations.

"And since the Russians do not always provide the required messages, they are sometimes

provoked. A plane 'loses' its way, while behind the frontier tape recorders excitedly read the irritated exchanges of Russian pilots; and, when the latter sometimes forces the airplane to land, an international incident is created, and reported in the usual fashion . . .

"After the war, a fleet of a dozen exceedingly fast Mercedes-Benz torpedo-type boats were built and manned by sailors from Hitler's Navy, were sent out under British captains to provoke and listen to the Russians.

"They would head straight for the Russian fleet at exercise and circle around a battleship, taking photographs. When they had succeeded in concentrating all the guns of the fleet and recorded enough messages they fled. When in Swedish waters, contrary to all international conventions, they flew the Swedish flag."

New York

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Music • Dancing • Refreshments

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Contribution: \$1.50 with dinner; \$.50 for social only

Ausp.: New York Local, Socialist Workers Party

The French Atrocities in Algeria

By John Thayer

What kind of war is it that the French militarists and settlers in Algeria are determined to continue even if it entails overthrowing the French Republic and establishing a dictatorship?

It is one of the most brutal wars in modern history. The French army has been carrying on a reign of terror and reprisals against a whole people — combatant and non-combatant — men, women and children, that is surpassed in ferocity only by the Nazi campaigns in Poland and the occupied parts of the Soviet Union during the last war.

"MASTER RACE"

In this French colony there are about nine million Algerians and one million French colonists or settlers. At most only half of these "French colonists" are French. The other half being of Spanish, Italian, Maltese, and other Mediterranean extraction. What makes them "French," or members of the "master race" there, is their European ancestry, their skin, their religions — which though varied are "superior" because they are non-Moslem.

Not all of these colonists are big farmers, plantation owners or capitalists. Most are merely middle class, white-collar or skilled workers. But most have been corrupted by their "master race" privileges, and others cowed into line by the extremely reactionary veterans, organizations, professional clubs, etc. (similar to the White Citizens Councils of the American South), which do the bidding of the big landowners and capitalists and banks, who really own Algeria.

With the exception of a small number of Uncle Toms and quislings the Algerian people all want independence and support the underground nationalist movement and the guerrilla bands of freedom fighters. A N.Y. Times correspondent Joseph Kraft puts it (May 23):



The three insurgent generals who are the principal members of the junta holding power in Algeria, at a ceremony in Algiers. They are (lower left to right): Raoul Salan, Commander-in-Chief of French forces in Algeria; Jacques Massu of the paratroopers, and Edmond Jouhaud of the air force.

"Like the war itself, the Algerian nationalists, or National Liberation Army, are everywhere and nowhere. Everywhere, because in any city a foreigner can meet Arabs, many of them working for the French administration, who can put him in touch with the nationalist forces. Probably no village in Algeria is without a nationalist political officer, distributing the locals for funds, setting women and children to spy on the French, storing up food for nationalist soldiers who may happen by, yet, withal, unknown to the French."

U.S. EQUIPMENT

The actual guerrilla army is estimated at only 30,000. It could be ten or more times larger but is kept small by lack of arms. It has only what can be smuggled in and what is captured from the French who, generously supplied by the U.S., have tremendous quantities of all weapons plus planes, helicopters, trucks, tanks, etc., etc.

Since the whole Arab population hides and helps the guerrillas, the French militarists have resorted to mass executions of civilians to terrorize the population as a whole, destruction of villages suspected of harboring and feeding guerrillas, and the systematic use of torture to extract information.

Many verified, factual accounts of the unbelievable savagery of the French militarists in Algeria have been published. A recent eye-witness

account of conditions in rural Algeria appeared in the independent socialist newspaper France-Observateur (April 24). It is an interview with Abbe Berenguer, the parish priest of Montagnac, a village of 2,500 in western Algeria. This priest, a third-generation French colon in Algeria, went to France for medical reasons, and was refused readmission to Algeria by the military. The following excerpts are from the lengthy interview.

DESTROYED VILLAGES

"In connection with the Christmas holidays I visited military posts in places where I hadn't been for a year. I was surprised to find that the majority of meches — or Arab hamlets — had been destroyed and their inhabitants evacuated . . . It seems that besides personal letters I wrote to my friends, what annoyed the authorities about me was the sermons I felt it my duty to pronounce from the pulpit about certain action which had taken place on the territory of my parish. The officers and soldiers who had participated in or hatched these actions were present at mass, and I did not feel I should remain silent before them. One of the last times I spoke in this way at the end of December 1957, in connection with a truck which had been blown up by a land mine. There had been only property damage, no dead, no wounded. Yet the colonel commanding the nearby camp had five prisoners executed and their bodies exposed at the scene of the explosion for 48 hours.

(Question: "You speak of prisoners shot. Are these nationalist soldiers taken in combat?") Abbe Berenguer: "Not in the least. They are 'suspects' that are gathered in the course of a roundup for verification of identities or people who have been denounced. Every military camp has next to it a prison camp."

(Question: "Was the above case an isolated example or are

there many of this type?") lion men killed since the beginning of the war was cited to me by officers six or seven months ago."

In the N.Y. Times article referred to above, Joseph Kraft, describing the Algerian scene, writes: "Along the back-country roads broken men, and near blind, stumble their way home — Arabs released from the torture chambers, each with a white note fixed to his clothing to indicate he is harmless." It is the brutalized professional soldiers of Gen. Massu's paratroops, not the 90% draftees French army, who are the most bestial torturers. Professional killers for the past seven years in Indo-China and now in Algeria, these paratroopers have been torturing for seven years also and are now as brutalized as were Hitler's SS elite troops. Woe to the people of France if they are the praetorian guard of a military dictator.

Latin American Notes

By J. Gomez

There is long-standing resentment, distrust and dislike on the part of the Latin American people for the Wall Street crowd and its representatives in Washington.



NIXON

The maladjustment affects not only the working masses but also some sections of the native capitalist and middle-class elements. Hence the popular support accorded the anti-Nixon demonstrations which were looked on with satisfaction by a considerable section of the native ruling elements.

The economic crisis that the Latin American countries are going through started a long time before the depression in the United States. And it was aggravated by the onset of crisis in the United States itself. As a result of the U.S. recession, there was not only a drop in the import of raw materials, especially in the metals field, but also a sharp decline in prices.

INFLATION

For instance the price of copper dropped from 50 cents a pound to 21 cents. This resulted in a sharp drop in the national revenue in countries such as Peru, Chile, Bolivia, etc. which depend largely upon copper exports. This situation brought about not only an extremely unbalanced economy, but a high degree of inflation as well and the consequent lowering of the already low living standards of the working masses.

The Peruvian sol suffered a serious drop when the dollar receipts fell from 40 to 4 million in the last year. The situation is even worse in Bolivia and not much better in Chile. Indeed, an important factor in the Caracas demonstration was resentment against the restriction of oil imports from Venezuela. To add to Latin American woes, the pro-American forces in the U.S. want to enforce higher tariffs and restrictions which would inevitably worsen even the present day chaotic situation.

That is why, in protest, the President of Chile, Carlos Ibáñez, cancelled his visit to Washington. Other leading countries of Latin America, such as the coffee-producing countries like Brazil, Colombia, are also faced with falling prices and restricted markets.

The hostile demonstrations against Nixon arose in the main on bread and butter issues and not, as some tried to see in them, out of protest over Washington's support to the different dictatorships. Actually,

in the case of Argentina, for example, it is well-known that the popular masses preferred the semi-dictatorship of Peron to the so-called democratic representatives of the ruling forces, because the Peron regime offered them something in the field of social and national aspirations.

The masses knew that Nixon didn't come to help them solve their difficult problems but, on the contrary, that the purpose of his visit was to further reactionary and imperialist aims — namely, to strengthen the system and the forces that keep the majority of Latin Americans in their present miserable living conditions.

Neither Washington nor Wall Street nor the ruling classes that base themselves on the system of private property are capable of solving the economic problems of Latin America. The people of Latin America are learning this basic truth more and more every day. Therefore they are on the march for their social and national emancipation. The anti-Nixon demonstrations were only a token of what is coming.

... Show Will to Fight De Gaulle

(Continued from Page 1)

Then by means of Wall Street's Marshall Plan and NATO, French capitalism was equipped with teeth and claws for coping internally with its working class and use externally in the cold war and dirty wars in Indo-China and Algeria. (See editorial, page 3.)

The equal opportunism and sell-outs of the Social-Democratic leaders and Communist Party leaders, though they serve different masters, has greatly discouraged the French working class. The most revolutionary and best organized labor movement in Europe, it has nevertheless come to feel almost paralyzed. Thus in the Jan. 2, 1956 elections it gave tremendous votes to the SP and CP, both of which campaigned

on slogans of ending the war in Algeria. But almost immediately after taking office "Socialist" Premier Mollet, with support from the Communist Party deputies, intensified the war against the Algerians.

For two weeks the SP and CP leaders lulled the workers to the present danger by supporting Premier Pflimlin as a dependable opponent of de Gaulle. This sorry game came to its inevitable end this morning. Pflimlin, after winning another vote of confidence (408-165), promptly resigned in de Gaulle's favor. This double-cross, prepared in a secret meeting between them, was abetted by another "defender" of democracy, President Coty, who himself threatens to resign unless the would-be dictator is accepted.

The 11th hour mobilization of the French working class shows that it has thrown off the torpor induced by past betrayals. It gives promise that it will be able to rise above its misleaders to wage an effective fight against de Gaulle. For in backing de Gaulle's bid for dictatorship, the French capitalist class has put to an end the long period of constitutional-democratic rule marked by its ministers playing musical chairs in an endless succession of cabinets. It has opened a period in which the fateful question is posed: Who is to rule France, the workers or the capitalists? Will France be socialist or fascist?

Against Dictatorship!

[The following are excerpts from a Manifesto of the French Internationalist Communist Party (Trotskyist) on the Coup d'Etat in Algeria and Its Consequences. It was issued in Paris, May 17. — Ed.]

The "ultras" and the clique of generals in Algeria have decided to inflict upon the French people an intensification of the Algerian war.

Everybody knows:

The prosecution of the war against the Algerian people who are struggling for their independence —

means misery, means blood, means tortures, means the abolition of liberties.

means the menace of military dictatorship!

In voting the state of siege, parliament has put into effect installment No. 1 of the program of the men in Algiers.

Experience has shown that you cannot insure peace and defend liberty by applying the program of the enemies of peace and liberty.

In voting the special emergency powers for Algeria on March 12, 1956, the deputies of the Socialist party and Communist party, contrary to their promises, voted for war, bloodshed and misery.

The leaders of the Socialist party and of the Communist party, the leaders of the unions, instead of relying upon the strength of the working class, are maneuvering in parliament, participating in innumerable secret meetings, debating and jabbering while de Gaulle menaces.

Enough of that! . . .

Only the working class, the United Front of workers mobilized in their neighborhoods and factories, can block the march of the reactionary threat and smash it.

Only the working class, the toiling masses themselves, are capable of applying a program truly corresponding to their desires . . .

Peace in Algeria by opening negotiations without exclusion or preliminaries, by recognizing the right of the Algerian people to self-determination.

A decent standard of living guaranteed against the rise in prices by a real sliding scale of wages.

THAT'S WHAT THE WORKERS WANT!

THAT'S WHAT THE GENERAL STRIKE WILL BRING!

the threat of military dictatorship, they do not accept the policy of delay and parliamentary maneuvers which only aim at a compromise with the militarist clique and de Gaulle.

What has happened is truly unbelievable. The clique in Algeria wants to strangle the French people. De Gaulle openly supports them.

And the Pflimlin government, supported by the votes of the Socialist party and the Communist party, forbids workers' meetings and workers' demonstrations, passes a law establishing a state of siege which actually increases the power of the very generals and very police who are marching arm in arm with the Algerian ultras and with de Gaulle! . . .

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They also knew that Nixon

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Monday, June 2, 1958

The State Dep't and De Gaulle

France today faces the menace of a fascist bid for power — this time, not of German origin, but of native French birth. Liberty stands on the scaffold. The traditional parliamentary rule of French capitalism, tottering in crisis for months, now stands in a state of collapse. Frustrated generals, busy for years at the bloody business of war, paratroopers clad in bright berets, hardened with the hate of those who inflict tortures, virulent fascist groups and their followers in France itself — all threaten civil war. They stand ready to take France on the long, dark road of open and violent tyranny.

This is the fruit of the policies of the U.S. State Department since the end of World War II. This is the fruit of the Marshall Plan and all the loans and agreements negotiated since then.

How could it be otherwise? U.S. policy in West Europe has had only one objective. Not the elimination for all time of the barbarism of fascist tyranny as promised to the millions who died or were maimed in World War II. U.S. Big Business sought primarily to stabilize the capitalist system. What does it matter to the American billionaires if this can be done in the long run only by means of a fascist dictatorship?

U.S. financial and military aid provided the French imperialists with the means for their reactionary wars against the colonial people. In addition, these bloody events help to train the cadres that tomorrow will be used against the French workers. It was first in Indo-China and then in Algeria that the methods of the Nazi Gestapo were translated into French.

As de Gaulle prepared to make his bid for power, the U.S. press made a pretense of concern, even of opposition. There

were warnings that de Gaulle's position on the North Atlantic Treaty Alliance was "uncertain."

Yet this pretense of U.S. State Department opposition is abandoned even before de Gaulle succeeds in taking power. On May 26, Henry N. Taylor of the Scripps-Howard staff in Washington dropped the hint that "American officials . . . are reluctantly putting themselves in a frame of mind to do business with him [de Gaulle]."

For France has not been the "ideal" European leader of NATO — as far as U.S. capitalists are concerned. It has never been a strong bastion for the "free world." There has been too much freedom in France. A powerful labor movement exists that has the capacity to give trouble to U.S. cold-war plans on the continent.

Spain has come closer to the capitalist notion of a strong base for the "free world." There, strikes are not permitted. Political parties are illegal. Free speech doesn't exist. There is no freedom of the press. All that U.S. militarists have to do is persuade or buy off dictator Franco to get bases for planes or missiles. There is no organized force to object.

Undoubtedly, such a condition in France would please U.S. Big Business. But this dream is not realized yet. The French working class is still organized and can, within a matter of days, reverse the trend and send the fascists scurrying for cover.

France stands at the crossroads. Either the nightmare of fascism will grow and engulf the working people, or the workers will resolve the crisis with a socialist power. There can be no doubt on which side U.S. capitalism stands. But for the American people, the loss of France to fascism would be tragic.

Alike, the political machines of our country are committed to brink-of-war policies which cannot fail to involve the world in catastrophic conflict unless reversed; and they have persisted in the testing of weapons of mass annihilation which even now are destroying lives and sapping the health of present and future generations through radioactive nuclear fallout.

Alike, they are committed to an economic system which at least once before in most of our memories has brought the nation to its knees in Depression for the profit of a few; which in this year has once again brought our country to the brink of a new economic collapse, after boom years of the most voracious profit-taking in the history of the world.

Alike, they have sought to crush labor, the family farmer and the small business man. They have driven the scientist from the laboratory of peace. They have impoverished and corrupted our educational system, driving fine teachers from the classroom and others into the refuge of conformity with the drive for profit and war.

They condone and foster race hatred, deny the American birthright of freedom and threaten millions of foreign

...Text of United Socialist Conference Call

(Continued from Page 1)
you spread the message of the Conference to all your friends in labor, farm and minority organizations, in the peace movement, among socialists of any and all persuasions and generally to the progressive community of your locality.

We request that the undersigned be authorized to prepare for consideration by the Conference a draft platform, a list of potential candidates and plans to mobilize forces to place designated candidates on the ballot by petition.

We further request that proposals for candidates and platform be submitted by those concurring in this endeavor.

Fraternally,

Henry Abrams
Joyce Cowley
Richard DeHaan
W. E. B. Dubois
Corliss Lamont
Muriel McAvoy
John T. McManus
Otto Nathan
Russ Nixon
Annette Rubenstein
Howard Selsam
George Stryker

CALL FOR A UNITED INDEPENDENT - SOCIALIST ELECTION CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK STATE

In deep concern for the well-being of all the people of our country and for the peace of the world, the undersigned citizens herewith issue a Call to conscientious people of our State to a Conference for the purpose of challenging the political machines of our State and Nation at the polls in the 1958 elections.

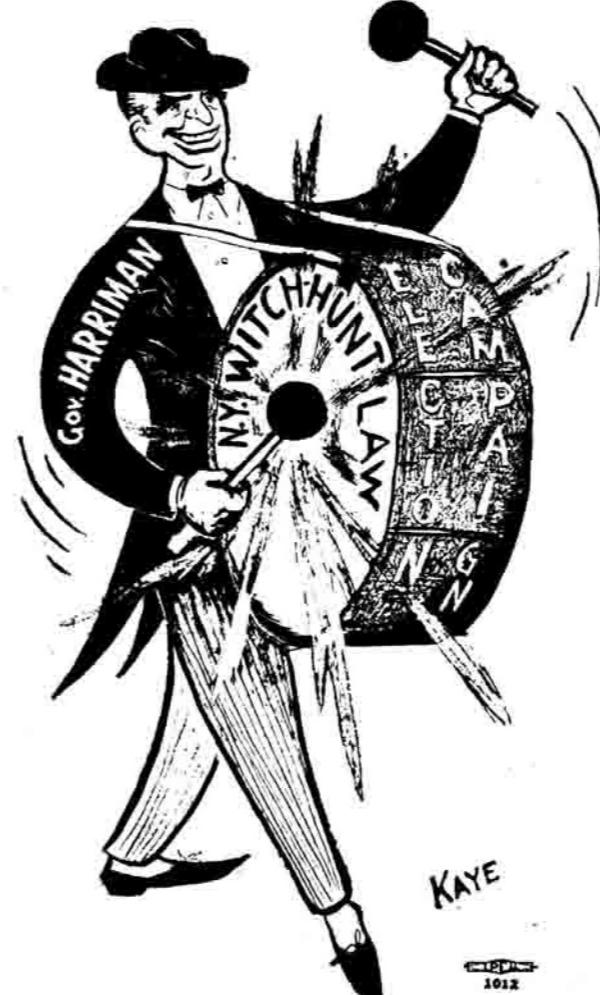
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The Harriman Boom



Governor Harriman of New York, who is seeking election as a "friend of labor" and supporter of civil liberties, signed a bill April 11 extending the state "Security Risk" law for another year. The law is designed to circumvent the Civil Service Law whose specific purpose is to prevent state and city employees from being fired for political beliefs. The "risk" law was first adopted as a "temporary" measure during the Korean war. It enables the firing of civil servants as "security risks" for a broad range of political beliefs, alleged or real. Hundreds of state and city employees have already been victimized under the measure. Harriman signed it over the protest of leading civil liberties groups.

birth and their families through repressive statutes which are a restoration in our time of the iniquitous Alien and Sedition Laws which Thomas Jefferson and his followers fought to destroy in the founding years of our republic.

They have sought to suppress all political opposition and to render as seditious in the public mind and indeed in the laws of the nation, the search for peace and a better way of life, and for a world of brotherhood and equality among men and nations.

In a world in which a billion people are engaged in building a socialist order as an alternative to capitalist anarchy, American capitalism is disclosing its inability to utilize the gigantic productive capacity, natural resources and skilled labor of our country to provide a future of economic security, peace and freedom for the people.

The people of our country are beginning to search for pathways to a better future. They have rallied in increasing numbers against repression. They have begun to roll back the evil known as McCarthyism and have scored signal victories in the courts for civil liberty. The Negro people have embarked on a great effort for full equality. Citizens of all walks of life have joined in protest against the development

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A Wet, Cold Wait in Line For Some Surplus Food

By S. and L. Forrest

NEW YORK, May 6 — The cops, an armory, a day festering with the cold rain of spring, and a sullen crowd.

We inquired as to what was happening and were told government surplus farm products were being distributed to those on relief. We had the opportunity to ask questions of the people who had been in the crowd. The answers were telling. Once a month surpluses were distributed to a family — corn meal, or flour (choice of one) brick cheese and perhaps butter.

Some one said the crowds were so large because butter was being distributed and "you don't get that all the time." Another injected, "They closed the doors at 2:45 (the regular hours are 9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.) because they had run out of food. Pity those poor people who haven't farce home and have to go home empty handed." "The cops had to break up the crowd," said someone else. Ten million dollars a day to store the surplus and they ran out. It's a wonder there wasn't a riot."

EMPTY BAGS

As we listened, a man about 35 came by, head hung low, every line in his face and being speaking of dejection. Over his arm hung two empty bags. He was one of many.

The next man may have been 25 years old but the look of worried frustration made him appear aged. Thinking back to this despairing picture makes one wonder about his family. Were there children? The ap-

pearance of his face suggested a how-do-I-face-them-e m p t y-handed dilemma.

The crowd was composed largely of young and middle-aged people — from 25 to 45 years old. About two-thirds were Puerto-Ricans and Negroes.

One young person we talked to said he was picking up surplus goods for a widowed sister that had four children and could not leave them to get the food herself. Another young person was picking up food for an aged, bed-ridden neighbor. We learned from these conversations how much these aged people depend on surplus products to stretch out their meager relief checks.

How is surplus food, donated by the government to the city and distributed for relief, indicative of the over-all relief picture? To complete the picture a call was made to the Welfare Department of New York. The figures speak for themselves. Remember, the relief rolls are the last refuge of destitution. Pauperism must be proved. Unemployment benefits must be exhausted or proved insufficient. All cash and luxuries (car, TV, bank account) must be liquidated. All assets must be used before application is accepted. The following relief figures are for New York City (April figures are not available): January 1958, 316,114; February 1958, 321,668; March 1958, 328,600. An average of 900 applications are received per day, of which approximately 60% are accepted.

New York City Welfare Board states that no decrease is ex-

pected for at least six months. If times get better, it was stated, it would take that long for workers to be assimilated again on the labor market.

As of April there were 99,771 families receiving surplus foods in New York State or, on a per person basis, 364,797 persons including all categories of persons on relief (home aid, aid to the blind, dependent children, old-age benefits and veterans' benefits) are receiving benefits.

The New York City figures show 69,995 families receiving surplus food or 236,801 individuals.

Figuring the government grant in surplus food as retailing at approximately \$1 million per month, we find an average aid of a little under \$4 per month per person has been added to the inadequate subsistence of relief.

EFFICIENCY

The following item was cited by a business-page columnist of the New York Herald Tribune (March 16). It was one of many in a report made by a high-priced firm of management consultants hired by a company which wanted to cut costs. The efficiency experts recommended that all the paper-towel racks in the corporation's washrooms be raised two inches. "By this method the person drying his hands must raise them higher to pull out a towel. This causes water to run down the forearm, thereby creating an uncomfortable feeling, and it can be assumed that the user will then hurriedly pull out only one towel instead of two."

An indication of what is involved was presented in a May 21 column by Jack Mabley in the Chicago Daily News. Mabley wrote: "The police say they don't lay a hand on prisoners, but the American Civil Liberties Union talks to people with welts and bruises and says they do."

"A Negro with few friends and little money and no conception of his legal rights may wander onto the scene of a crime and be picked up as a suspect.

"A policeman may allow that 'we just shove him against the wall a few times, maybe a little hard, just to loosen him up, get him in the right frame of mind.'

"I asked Don Moore, attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union who has talked with dozens of people who contend they were beaten by police, what the police say when accused of brutality.

DOESN'T HAPPEN NOW?

"They'll say you've been reading too many detective stories," Moore answered. "They'll say this might have gone on in the 20's and 30's, but the police don't beat prisoners today. That's also what they said in the 20's and 30's."

"In my opinion it goes on every day. A casual beating, a slapping around in a back room — they can make you confess anything.

"Anybody who says these things do not happen just don't know what he is talking about."

"Any policeman who says prisoners aren't beaten in Chicago is a liar."

"... Moore points out that between last May and January Chicago paid out \$156,000 to settle cases in which the police were charged with violating civil liberties — illegal arrests or detention or beatings.

"Kenneth Douty, executive director of the civil liberties group, and Moore have supervised the investigation of more than 4,000 Chicago police arrests. They are preparing a report which will document a shocking number of illegal arrests.

"Basically they accuse the Chicago police of following the practices of the secret police in dictator states."

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NUMBER 22

THE MILITANT

Hit Police Brutality In Chicago

CHICAGO — Police brutality, particularly against Negroes, is getting steadily worse in this city. Matters are reaching the stage where organizations like the NAACP and the American Civil Liberties Union are focusing special attention on the problem.

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STEEL PROFITS

The U.S. Steel Corporation's profit per man-hour worked rose from 85.4 cents in 1950 to \$1.80 in 1957.

Victim of Greed.



By Della Rossa

LOS ANGELES — This is the City Central Grocery Store. Its remaining customers in Chavez Ravine are the 12 Mexican-American families not yet evicted to make room for the Dodgers' stadium. Today I talked with some of these families.

Mrs. Avran Arechiga is 61 years old. She's thin but there's a spirited smile on her lined brown face. Speaking Spanish, she told how she and her family fought off the sherriffs last August when they tried to move them out bodily. Their furniture was on the street and Mrs. Arechiga, who was sick in bed, was about to be moved out.

Her daughter, Victoria, said, "My mother is very stubborn. They had about five squad cars here. I got into a fist fight with a cop, my sister and I, and they handcuffed me." Her ten year old sister was in bed for a week from a kick received in the scuffle. The eviction was held off after a call brought City Councilman Edward Roybal hurrying over from City Hall. Roybal was elected by the Mexican-American community.

Ruth Nava is a young widow with four children who is still clinging to the home she has lived in since 1924. She is a chicken-picker, a member of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters Union, but was out of work when I talked to her. She is demanding \$10,000 for her property. The city officials won't offer more than \$6,800 but are insisting she get out.

"They are trying to get the land dirt cheap, just because we are Mexican," this outspoken woman said. She told of the handsome Palo Verde School, now boarded up, and the church torn down. "The priest called the area slums, but he lived on our money."

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FUND SCOREBOARD

City	Quota	Paid	Percent
DENVER	\$40	\$66.00	165
PITTSBURGH	10	12.00	120
Detroit	825	917.00	111
LOS ANGELES	4600	5000.00	109
SOUTH	200	215.00	108
OAKLAND	265	289.00	102
ALLEGTON	112	112.00	100
BUFFALO	1500	1500.00	100
CLEVELAND	750	750.00	100
SAN FRANCISCO	440	441.00	100
SEATTLE	550	550.00	100
YOUNGSTOWN	300	300.00	100
NEW YORK	5000	5,011.00	100
Twin Cities	1742	1646.00	94
Milwaukee	300	256.00	85
Chicago	1716	1409.00	82
Newark	265	215.00	81
Philadelphia	528	421.00	80
St. Louis	80	57.00	71
Boston	600	390.00	66
General	177	176.00	99

Totals through May 28 \$20,000 \$19,713 99

By Della Rossa

LOS ANGELES, May 16 — How did 315 acres of land in Chavez Ravine, ten minutes from the civic center, come to be given by the city of Los Angeles as a virtual gift to a private business corporation, Walter O'Malley's Dodgers baseball club?

When Los Angeles bought the land from the City Housing Authority, which had obtained it by evicting working class families so that a housing project could be built there, the sale deed read: "To be used for public purposes only." Doesn't this make the O'Malley contract illegal and void?

The contract between Los Angeles and the baseball corporation also agrees to rezone the area to C-3, the most coveted zoning in the city, permitting the tallest buildings, with stores, hotels, and almost anything of a commercial nature. Is this needed for baseball?

Before designating Brown, who says he is against Powell for "attempting to pit race against race," Tammany tried to get either Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP or Rev. James Robinson, a Harlem clergyman, to run against Powell. Both pleaded "previous commitments." But Robinson yesterday gave the real reason why he was afraid to accept. He said, "The Democratic leadership, both of Harlem and this city, seems to have neither fully understood nor accurately gauged the basic political attitudes, unspoken but deep resentments and desires of the people of Harlem."

It seems also to have missed the very essential point that there is at least as much, if not more, anti-Hulan Jack feeling as pro-Powell sentiment." Borough President Jack is Tammany Boss Carmine DeSapio's Harlem lieutenant.

It became so clear that the corporation doesn't need it, for parking for instance, and O'Malley avoids taxes by not taking title to it for 20 years.

The contract calls for the city to spend \$2 million on grading — or whatever the corporation sees fit. County gas tax funds amounting to even more than that will take care of access roads.

On the question of the trade of Wrigley Field (now owned by the Dodgers and valued at \$2 million) for Chavez Ravine, Councilman Pat McGee stormed out at the hearing, "Wrigley Field (valued at \$15 million) is nothing more than a white elephant. The Dodgers don't want it, so they just threw it into the deal to make it look like a good deal."

Councilman Edward Roybal, the only councilman who originally voted against giving up the housing project in 1953, told the Militant it was one of the worst contracts the city had ever entered into.

The June 3 referendum is not the first time the city voters have decided on the question of what to do with Chavez Ravine. After the U.S. Supreme Court told Los Angeles to honor its housing contract, the issue was put on the ballot. Frontier magazine said in a June 1957 article, "In an effort to evade the responsibility for repudiating the housing contract [the City Council] put the issue on a city-wide ballot in . . . a jumble of misleading legalistic phrases."

Packing Union To Press for 30-Hour Week

NEW YORK, May 26 — The United Packinghouse Workers of America will press for a "30-hour week at no reduction in pay," according to a resolution adopted by

Advancement of Colored People, and a guest speaker, said: "There are some unions that pass resolutions for civil rights, hold conferences on civil rights, show movies on civil rights, but nevertheless, stumble at the bargaining table."

SOUTHERN DRIVE

The question of organizing the South was given major attention. About 10% of UPWA membership is in the South, where the union stoutly maintains a policy of integration in its locals. A Southern organization

SCORE REUTHER

"Ten per cent of our members are unemployed," one delegate told me, "and automation is cutting away at us constantly, recession or no recession. We are serious about the shorter work week and so are the top officers." "We may have to settle for less than ten hours reduction," said another, "and it would have been much easier if Reuther hadn't ducked out, but we are going to do what we can."

The report further states that the "political responsibility" of the trade union movement "must take the concrete and specific form of securing the right to vote for more than 2,830,000 disfranchised Negroes in the South." In a resolution supporting the AFL-CIO Committees on Political Education, the convention called for such committees to devote major attention to increasing Negro voters in the South.

U.S. AND SOVIET STEEL EXPERTS will tour the mills of each country on an exchange basis. In June a 19-man delegation, headed by a director of Inland Steel, will visit steel plants in the Ural Mountains, an area hitherto closed to U.S. visitors. In July or August a Soviet delegation will visit the U.S. Steel plant in Chicago, a city at present closed to Soviet visitors. This is considered the most important agreement yet reached under the technical, scientific and cultural exchange program.

Los Angeles voters face a similar situation in next month's referendum. The majority of the press, radio and television are all for baseball, the Dodgers, and the O'Malley contract. It's good business, they say. The newspapers spot stories of group endorsements of the contract. Some labor unions have gone along.

The Chandlers' Los Angeles Times has played an open and leading role in electing Norris Poulson on the issue of stopping public housing, and gave enthusiastic support to Poulson's moves in getting the Dodgers here and in giving Chavez Ravine to O'Malley.

William G. Bonelli, who in 1954 was a member of the State Board of Equalization, said: "The city now possesses great tracts of property which were condemned and cleared for housing developments. The value of these tracts increases steadily. From the beginning of Norris Poulson's administration, there have been reports that these tracts would end in the hands of the Chandlers or their associates . . . The Chandlers have long had a way with real estate whose value is improved by using the public funds. The examples of the San Fernando Valley and the Imperial Valley quickly come to mind. Will the land that was supposed to be used to replace slums come next?" (From *Billion Dollar Blackjack*.)

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